



INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS COMMITTEE FOR DISABLED
A Standing Committee of the International Paralympic Committee

**MOTIONS FOR THE TABLE TENNIS ASSEMBLY AS SUBMITTED BY THE SPORTS
 ASSEMBLY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 19 AUGUST 2002**

MOTION 1: that the Assembly give its in principle (conceptual) approval for the Sports Assembly Executive Committee (SAEC) to establish a working relationship with the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) with the aim of the International Table Tennis Committee (ITTC) becoming an integral part of the ITTF with the following provisions for which the ITTC will remain responsible, in cooperation with the ITTF:

- 1.1 the development of Paralympic table tennis, particularly at the entry level, with a focus on the more severely disabled and women;
- 1.2 the ITTC be the body which affiliates to and represents the ITTF at meetings of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC);
- 1.3 the technical organisation of separate regional, world and Paralympic championships in cooperation with the IPC (including selections, organisational arrangements, appointment of technical officials and overseeing the application of the relevant rules for Paralympic table tennis);
- 1.4 the development of rules for Paralympic table tennis;
- 1.5 the development and maintenance of the classification system;
- 1.6 the training of coaches, technical delegates, referees and umpires to incorporate issues specific to Paralympic table tennis;
- 1.7 the maintenance of up to date ranking lists;
- 1.8 the current ITTC logo.

Rationale: *the IPC Handbook encourages the IPC sports to “foster integration” with their international federation counterparts. The IPC Sports Council has recently established procedures to be followed which includes the “conceptual approval” of the Assembly for “sports independence” which is either complete independence from the IPC and the international federation or becoming a part of the international federation.*

The SAEC is recommending that the relationship with the ITTF be explored in the first instance rather than complete independence.

MOTION 2: that the Assembly consider and approve any changes proposed to the ITTF constitution as a result of the integration of the ITTC together with a report and recommendations, particularly on transitional arrangements, from the SAEC before the proposed integration is formalised and the IPC Executive petitioned to approve a change in status of the ITTC from a “Championship Sport” to a programme or division of the ITTF.

Rationale: *again, the procedures established by the IPC Sports Council require that the Assembly approve a draft constitution which includes the development of a democratic structure for governance, transitional arrangements and that the IPC Executive approve, in terms of the IPC by-laws, a change in the status of the ITTC.*

MOTION 3: that the Assembly approve that no player be permitted to wear jeans during competition. If a player is found to wearing all or part of a pair of jeans under his/her short or skirt, it will be

considered cheating and the player will be disqualified. In the case of further offence, the player will be disqualified for the full competition losing all his or her points won in that competition.

Rationale: *there is no medical reason for a player to wear jeans during competition and it does not contribute to a positive image of the game. Jeans are not included in the definition of sports apparel in the ITTF regulations for International Competitions 3.2.2 – Clothing reads:*

“3.2.2.1 *Playing clothing shall normally consist of a short-sleeved shirt and shorts or skirt, socks and playing shoes; other garments, such as part or all of a track-suit, shall not be worn during play except with the permission of the referee”.*

To take effect from 1 December 2002.

MOTION 4: that the Assembly approve that if a player must use a belt and/or corset due to his or her disability, he or she has to prove that it is necessary to the classification panel. The onus is on the player to draw the use of such equipment to the Official Classifier either for the initial or review of classification. Permission for use of a belt and/or corset will be given under the following conditions:

- a) permanent – this must be written on the player’s international classification card (ICC) by the Official Classifier at the relevant tournament.
- b) temporary – the player must provide a full explanation from his or her own doctor who must certify the period for which the belt and/or corset is/are required. This certificate must be signed and dated by the medical doctor and submitted to the Official Classifier at the relevant tournament. The player must report this to the Referee before the start of competition in which he or she participates.

Rationale: *the Medical and Classification Committee believes that unless the use of belts and/or corsets is strictly overseen, it can lead to an unfair advantage for some players. To take effect from 1 December 2002.*

MOTION 5: Should host/organising countries be able to organise more events, preference be given to events which encourage juniors, ladies and players of severe disability. (This is the current section).

That the Assembly approve the addition: Such tournaments, where they are “closed” events, may be given a ranking factor of 10 at the discretion of the Tournament Officer, and the results will be included in the next publication of the ranking list. (This sentence to be added).

Rationale: *currently, there is no clarity on the ranking factor of such events. As such an event may lead to a junior woman, for example, having access to more ranking tournaments than a senior man, the SAEC recommends that the ranking factor be limited so as to balance the need to encourage more events for juniors, women and the more severely disabled. Similarly, the SAEC recommends that there only be one ranking list. To take effect from 1 December 2002.*

MOTION 6: that the Assembly approve that the same number of ranking points be allocated for the doubles match to each player in the doubles team in the team event as the singles match.

Rationale: *to generate interest and greater competition in doubles matches as an important component of the overall game. To take effect from 1 January 2003.*

MOTION 7: that the Assembly approve that ranking points be allocated for the doubles match in the open doubles event. The ranking points will be divided equally between the two players winning the doubles match such that one extra point is allocated to the players winning for every class above their own that the losing players played in i.e. 3 points are generally allocated for a win plus if the players in class 2 defeat players in class 4 = 2 points = a total of 5 to be divided equally between the winning players = 2,5.

Rationale: *to generate interest and greater competition in doubles matches as an important component of the overall game. To take effect from 1 January 2003.*

MOTION 8: that the Assembly approve that the same number of ranking points be allocated for the doubles match in the class doubles event as the singles match in the class singles event. The ranking points will be divided equally between the two players winning the class doubles match.

Rationale: *to generate interest and greater competition in doubles matches as an important component of the overall game. To take effect from 1 January 2003.*

MOTION 9: that the Assembly approve the reduction of the five current sitting classes to four classes.

Rationale: *as a result of this, most of the current TT4 players and all TT5 players will be combined into one class – the new TT4. The balance of the current TT4 players close to the border-line will be included in the new TT3. The assessment criterion will be "can the player make a functional rotation" as this is necessary for technical reasons to make a spin. The Classification Committee does not believe that the full balance functions of some TT5 players will disadvantage those who do not have this capability as playing above the head, far to the side and below the level of the table is not essential. To take effect from 1 December 2002.*

MOTION 10: assuming that the Assembly approves motion 9, the Assembly is asked to approve a further motion that in new classes 3 and 4, the number of players be as follows for the relevant ranking factor tournaments:

i) in the most popular class, determined by the number of players entered, five players from at least two countries in factor 30 to 100 and eight players from two different countries in factor 10 and 20

and

ii) in the less popular class, four players from two countries in factor 30 to 100 and ten players from two countries in factor 10 and 20.

Rationale: *currently, with five wheelchair classes, three players are allowed in each factor 30 to 100 competition and six players in each factor 10 and 20 competition. In the five standing classes, three players are allowed in each factor 30 to 100 competition and six players in each factor 10 to 20 competition.*

In the proposed new system, the numbers for classes 1 and 2, 6 to 10 remain "somewhat" the same. Therefore, adjustments to the numbers for the new classes 3 and 4 are proposed. Similarly, with the addition of players being from two countries, this ensures that international ranking points do not accrue for a national championship.

MOTION 11: assuming that the Assembly approves motion 9, the Assembly is asked to approve a further motion that the difference in the ranking points accrued in class 4 and class 5 will be equalized for the NEW class 4. This will be done in the following way for:

- a) class 5 players: ranking points divided by 5 and multiplied by 4
e.g: $(12\ 045 \text{ points} \div 5) \times 4 = 9\ 636$ new points in new class 4
- a) each old class 4 player going to class 3: ranking points divided by 4 and multiplied by 3
e.g: $(\text{ranking points} \div 4) \times 3 =$ new class 3 points
- b) same system shall be used in NEW STANDING classes
e.g.: class 8 \Rightarrow class 7 : $(\text{ranking points} \div 3) \times 2 =$ new class 7 points
class 7 \Rightarrow class 10 : $(\text{ranking points} \div 2) \times 5 =$ new class 10 points

Rationale: *this is to ensure that there is no disadvantage for the players from lower classes due to the rationalisation of the new classes.*

MOTION 12: that the Assembly consider and approve the recommendation that the ITTC Handbook be amended to clarify the rules for players touching, moving and/or using the table as follows:

The upper surface of the table, known as the playing surface, shall be rectangular, 2,74m long and 1,525m wide, and shall lie in a horizontal plane 0,76m above the floor.

The racket hand is the hand in which the racket is held or strapped.

The free hand is the hand in which the racket is not held or strapped.

A player strikes the ball if he or she touches it in play with his or her racket, held in or strapped to the hand, or with his or her racket hand below the wrist.

A player shall score a point, unless the rally is a let, if the:

- a) opponent or anything the opponent wears or carries, moves the playing surface;
- b) opponent or anything the opponent wears or carries, touches the net assembly;
- c) opponent's free hand touches the playing surface;

More specifically, this means that from a pure “rule point of view”, a player may touch the table with the playing hand, if the table does not move. Ultimately the umpire will distinguish between “move” and “touch” the table.

Rationale: *currently, in the ITTC Handbook, the rules relating to this are as follows and they need to be expanded to provide greater clarity:*

“Touching the playing surface with the free hand (ITTF Law 2.10.1.10)

“When the ball is in play, a player may use the playing surface to restore balance after a shot has been played, provided the playing surface has not been moved. However, the player shall not use the table as a support with the free hand while playing the ball.

“Leaving racket on table during intervals (ITTF regulation 3.4.2.3)

“Unless otherwise authorised by the umpire, players shall leave their rackets on the table during the intervals. In all cases, when the racket is strapped to the hand, the umpire will allow the player to retain his or her racket during intervals.”

MOTION 13: that the Assembly consider and approve the recommendation that, should additions of a certain structure be made to the wheelchair, whether attached to the wheelchair or not (except cushions), all players must ask for a classification or a re-classification in this modified wheelchair. All additions to the wheelchair without re-classification and authorisation written on the ICC, shall be considered as illegal and the player will be disqualified.

Rationale: *the Medical and Classification Committee considers that some modifications to the structure of the wheelchair could provide an unfair advantage to a player.*

MOTION 14: that the Assembly approve the establishment of a working committee to investigate and make recommendations on a “rating system” to the next Assembly meeting to be held during the 2004 Paralympic Games. This working committee would comprise the Ranking Director, Sean O’Neill, Dr Sheng K Wu and one person to be co-opted by the working committee.

Rationale: *the SAEC considers that the current ranking system could be replaced by a rating system but requires time to do adequate research for possible implementation after the Paralympic Games in 2004.*

AMB/

29 April 2002